pled on a 50-percent basis while all records from the Virgin Islands and Guam are included. Information for prior years for these three areas is published in the respective annual vital statistics reports of the Department of Health of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Department of Health of the Virgin Islands, the Department of Public Health and Social Services of the Government of Guam, and in selected Vital Statistics of the United States annual reports.

When the microfilmed data are received from the various registration offices, the information on the sampled microfilm records is coded onto magnetic tape for input to the electronic computer. The computer then edits all the taped records and produces tabulations of natality statistics that are adjusted for sampling factors.

Natality data for the United States are limited to births occurring within the United States, including those occurring to residents and nonresidents of the United States. However, births to nonresidents of the United States are excluded from all tabulations by place of residence beginning in 1970. (See section on classification by occurrence and residence for further discussion.) Births occurring to U.S. citizens outside the United States are not included in any tabulations in this report. Similarly, the data for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam are limited to births registered in these areas.

Standard Certificate of Live Birth

The Standard Certificate of Live Birth, issued by the Public Health Service, has served for many years

FIGURE 4-A

